

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CZ, US

SUBJ: US- CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS

REF: PRAGUE 953

1. 1973 FIRST QUARTER US- CZECHOSLOVAK TRADE DATA (IN MILLION OF DOLLARS): US EXPORTS - JANUARY 3.5, FEBRUARY 8.9, MARCH 8.6; US IMPORTS - JANUARY 2.9, FEBRUARY 1.9, MARCH 2.3. FIRST QUARTER US EXPORTS WERE 21.0, COMPARED WITH 9.1 IN FIRST QUARTER 1972. COMMODITY COMPOSITION OF US EXPORTS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY SHOWS THREE MAIN PRODUCTS: WHEAT 2.8, ANIMAL FEEDS (OIL SEED CAKE) 4.1, HIDES (CATTLE AND HORSE) 4.2.

2. DATA INSUFFICIENT FOR CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING COMPOSITION AND LEVEL OF INTENDED GOC PURCHASES FROM US.
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SOVIET UNION ANNUALLY SUPPLIES 1.0 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED PART OF ITS US GRAIN PURCHASES BEING DIVERTED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THIS MAY IN SOME INSTANCES BE REFLECTED IN TRADE STATISTICS. HENCE, INCREASED LEVEL OF US GRAIN AND FEED EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA MAY BE DUE IN PART TO 1972 SOVIET CROP FAILURE AND NOT GOC DECISION TO OPEN TRADE DOOR WITH US. ANOTHER FACTOR IN INCREASED VALUE OF US EXPORTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA (PARA 1) IS SHARP INCREASE IN WORLD MARKET PRICES OF MAIN PRODUCTS LISTED ABOVE.

3. TIMING OF MFN/ TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEPEND MAINLY ON CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF TRADE LEGISLATION, PROGRESS ON OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES, AND PROGRESS IN ANTICIPATED TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND HUNGARY. RUSH

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